

tricacies of the electrocardiogram. The latter is much more fascinating than the cross-word puzzle and infinitely more profitable, since it gives new insight into the work of the heart in health and disease. To-day the electrocardiogram is an invaluable aid in determining the condition of the myocardium and the sooner this is recognized by the general practitioner, the better.

The increased size of this edition is largely due to the addition of several chapters dealing with the nature of auricular flutter and fibrillation, and a discussion of the theory of circus movement in relation to these conditions. Considerable new material is added dealing with the action of drugs on the heart.

GEORGE S. YOUNG

#### Development of Our Knowledge of Tuberculosis.

Lawrence E. Flick, M.D., LL.D. 783 pages. Price \$7.50 Philadelphia, 1925.

The author, who has been prominently identified with the progress of antituberculosis work in the United States, has undertaken to write the story of the progress of our scientific knowledge of tuberculosis down to the beginning of the present century. His enthusiasm has carried him so far as to write "now that it (tuberculosis) is understood, and its mysteries cleared up, and the way paved for its extermination, the story of how this was done is of gripping interest." Much of the story is told by extensive quotation from those workers who have written of their researches and observations. Few of those who are interested in tuberculosis have access to the works of Hippocrates, Galen, Sylvius, Morton, Sydenham, Baillie, Bayle, Laennec, Louis, Villemin, Virchow and Koch, and even where available, those of many foreign authors who have not been translated into English except in part. Many workers will welcome Flick's attempt to choose for them, from the countless works and articles on tuberculosis, those which he considers to have played the most important part in the progress of our knowledge. For example there are some six pages from Sylvius (1614-1672) who gave us the term tubercule; from the Phthisiologia of Morton (1689) which summed up the knowledge of his time and was in great repute at home and abroad for a century there are seventy pages, and to Villemin's most important experimental work he devotes one hundred and thirty pages principally in the author's own words. Much of Koch's original and historical communication is given in full. A few misprints mar the work; they are relatively unimportant, as when Littré appears repeatedly in the foot notes as Littre, yet it really hurts to find in such a praiseworthy volume, that the name of the great Laennec is scarcely to be recognized as it appears at the head of the chapter devoted to him. There is no reference to the pioneer work of Bodington nor is there any reference to the development of antituberculosis work in Canada.

J. H. ELLIOTT

**Medical Bacteriology and Protozoology.** W. R. Logan, M.D., F.R.C.P.E. Third edition. 178 pages. Price 3/- net. E. & S. Livingstone, 16 Teviot Place, Edinburgh, 1925.

What is the special virtue in writing a student's text-book in the catechism fashion, i.e., in the form of question and answer? For a virtue there apparently is, vide the wide popularity of the catechism series of medical books published by Messrs E. & S. Livingstone of Edinburgh. It would appear to lie in this, that when a teacher undertakes to explain what something means in response to a direct question he does so in a simpler way than when he is writing a book in the ordinary fashion. The language employed is less technical and the reply is obtained in what may be termed tabloid form. In any case such books undoubtedly serve a purpose.

The present volume is excellent in every way. The

main facts relating to bacterial growth and mode of action, sterilization, staining methods, etc., are dealt with adequately. More might be said, we venture to think, about methods of obtaining material for examination. Only a page is given to this matter the importance of which for the student, hospital intern, and practising doctor cannot be exaggerated.

Public health bacteriology,—bacteria in air, milk, water, etc., are all dealt with shortly and usefully. The Wassermann reaction is explained more simply and clearly than we can recall having seen it before elsewhere. As regards other serological tests in syphilis the Sachs-George test is explained but we think that the Kahn precipitation test might have been mentioned.

Scarlet fever is mentioned as probably a streptococcal condition. We should have thought that the statement could be made now with more confidence; also the Dick test in the diagnosis of scarlet fever might be given a place alongside the Schick in diphtheria.

The portion of the book dealing with protozoology is particularly good and up-to-date. JAMES MILLER

**Minor Surgery.** Lionel R. Fifield, F.R.C.S. 431 pages, 273 illustrations. Price 12/6 net. H. K. Lewis & Co., 136 Gower St., London, 1925.

The substance of this book is an account of the methods and apparatus used for minor surgical cases in the London Hospital, London. The space given to the various sections is relative to their importance, especially that devoted to fractures and infections of the hand. A section on anaesthetics and their choice is included at the end.

There are many good books already written upon this subject and we cannot feel certain in our minds that the competition has been overcome by the author. It is however, admittedly for students and practitioners and contains much that is useful. In the section of fractures we consider that the use of plaster of Paris has hardly had an adequate place allotted to it. The illustrations are clear and text well written.

L. J. AUSTIN

**A Text-Book of Medical Diagnosis.** James M. Anders, M.D., Ph.D., LL.D. Third edition, 1421 pages, 555 illustrations. Price \$13.00. W. B. Saunders Co., London and Philadelphia: McAnish & Co., Toronto, 1925.

It is about thirteen years since we had the pleasure of reviewing the first edition of this text-book of medical diagnosis. It was reprinted the following year. A revision appeared three years after the first. Space does not permit much detailed reference to the new sections which have been added nor to those which have been thoroughly revised. The great advances that have taken place in blood chemistry, in serology, in the recognition of endocrine disturbances, diseases of the blood and blood forming tissues and organs, functional tests, and in the recognition of diseases which have only appeared in our nomenclature of the past ten or fifteen years; all have received due attention. Even with careful editing of the former text the additions have increased the volume by about 225 pages. One hundred additional illustrations add considerably to the value of the work. It is a text-book which gives concisely the etiology, predisposing and exciting causes of medical diseases with their symptomatology, diagnosis and differential diagnosis. Very careful consideration is given to laboratory methods of diagnosis in addition to bedside methods. For example, the section on the blood is preceded by forty-four pages devoted to laboratory examination of the blood. In this is included the preparation of slides and cover glasses, collection of blood, study of fresh blood, estimation of coagulation, specific gravity, hæmoglobin, spectroscopic study, cell counting, cryoscopy,